

Message Text

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NESCO - FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES

FOL USICA SANTO DOMINGO 31600Z SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC
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FOR PGM/RC, AR, PGM/PPL, VOA: PASS UNESCO

EO 11652 NA

SUB: STOCKHOLM UNESCO CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL NEWS FLOW

REF: ARF-115 (4/28/78) MEDIA REACTION REPORTING
WATCH LIST 5/1/78

1. EL CARIBE, IMPORTANT SANTO DOMINGO MORNING DAILY, SEVERELY
CRITICIZED STOCKHOLM UNESCO MEETING IN A LONG (TWO-COLUMN)
EDITORIAL APRIL 28. BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW:

2. "TWO THINGS HAVE BECOME CLEAR FROM THE RECENT DELIBERATIONS
UNESCO IS CARRYING OUT TO IMPOSE A BODY OF INTERNATIONAL DOCTRINE
THAT PERMITS GOVERNMENTS-ESPECIALLY TOTALITARIAN AND DICTATORIAL
GOVERNMENT-TO CONTROL THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA.

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3. " THESE ARE THE EVER GREATER CLARITY WITH WHICH UNESCO AND
ITS DEFENDERS REVEAL THEIR FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE: THE SILENCING
OF THE PRESS AS A PART OF ABSOLUTE POLITICAL DOMINATION. AND
THE DETERMINATION, ALSO CONSTANTLY MORE CLEAR, THAT THE
PARTISANS OF A FREE PRESS ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT AGAINST
UNESCO IDEAS AND INITIATIVES.

4. "BOTH THINGS ARE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE THEY FORESHADOW A NEW STAGE-POSSIBLY THE FINAL STAGE--IN THE CAMPAIGN THAT TOTALITARIAN AND DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE WAGING IN THE BOSOM OF UNESCO TO DESTROY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS...

5. "WHAT BEGAN AS A "CAMPAIGN CONCERNING THE ALLEGED IMBALANCE IN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD," SAID EDITORIAL, HAS BROUGHT ABOUT "A DEFINITIVE CLARIFICATION OF POSITIONS" AS INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA AND GOVERNMENTS THAT FAVOR A FREE PRESS "HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE DANGERS THIS CAMPAIGN REPRESENTS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM". THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED:

6. "UNESCO AND ITS DEFENDERS UNBLUSHINGLY ADMIT THEIR BELIEF THAT THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF A FREE PRESS AS ONE OF THE PILLARS SUPPORTING WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE PERMITTED IN DEVELOPING SOCIETIES.

7. "THIS UNESCO CONCEPT, HOWEVER,HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH ANY EXHAUSTIVE AND OBJECTIVE STUDY OF THE REAL SITUATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NOR HAS IT BEEN ADOPTED BY A CONSENSUS OF THE CITIZENS OF THESE NATIONS. HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE SHOWS, MOREOVER, THAT THIS CONCEPT IS TOTALLY IN ERROR. WAS THERE EVER A COUNTRY MORE UNDERDEVELOPED THAN THE UNITES STATES WHEN IT BECAME INDEPENDENT? AND IS THERE A MORE SHINING EXAMPLE OF HOW A FREE PRESS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRESS OF A NATION AND TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ITS CIVIL LIBERTIES?

8. "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE HANDY CONCEPTION THAT THRE PRESS IS AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT, AS IT IS CONCEIVED BY GOVERNMENTS, RESPONDS IN REALITY TO THE NARROW INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THESE NATIONS, VERY FEW OF WHICH HAVE BEE FREELY AND DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED.

9. "THE CONCEPTION, THEN, THAT UNESCO HAS OF THE PRESS IS PURELY ELITIST AND PROGOVERNMENTAL. THE PRESS, ACCORDING TO UNESCO, MUST PRIMARILY SERVE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF POOR NATIONS....

10. "RECENT STATEMENTS BY INDONESIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT HAVE A FREE PRESS ONLY PRESENT IN A PARTICULAR WAY-WITHIN THE BODY OF DOCTRINE UNESCO HAS BEEN WEAVING--THE BRUTAL CLARITY WITH WHICH HIS DECLARATION WAS FORMULATED.

11. "THESE STATEMENTS WERE REINFORCED BY THE COMMENTS OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IN THE RECENT STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE. HE SAID

THAT THE ONLY VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
THAT CAN BE VERIDICAL AND VALID IS THE VERSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

12. "SUCH A THEORY IS NOT, HOWEVER, CIRCUMSCRIBED TO THE
PICTURESQUE AMBIT OF MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
DICTATORS
WHOSE METHODS AND STYLE OF GOVERNMENT ARE COMPLETELY FAMILIAR
TO DOMINICANS. AFTER ALL, THIS COUNTRY WAS GOVERNED FOR 31
YEARS BY A MAN--RAFAEL L. TRUJILLO--WHO HAD THE SAME CONCEPT
OF TRUTH AS KADHAFTY, ADMIN AND FIDEL CASTRO.

13. "THE EXTRAORDINARY THING IS THAT HIGHLY DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, REAL EMPIRES, SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION, HOLDING
DOMINION OVER A LARGE PART OF THE WORLD, SHARE THE SAME
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CONCEPT OF PRESS FUNCTION IN MODERN SOCIETIES AND HAVE AN
EQUALLY PRIMITIVE IDEA OF WHAT THE TRUTH IS.

14. "ON THE LAST DAY OF THE DELIBERATIONS AT THE STOFEOLM
MEETING IT BECAME CLEARLY AND DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED THAT
WHAT THE SOVIET UNION UNDERSTANDS BY 'INFORMATION BALANCE' IS
THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE MONOPOLY OF THE PRESS. THUS, THE
CONCEIRHQF INFORMATION BALANCE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A NEW
NAME FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROGAGANDA.

15. "WHAT THE UNESCO PROPOSES, AS A CONSEQUENCE, IS THAT
GREATER PRESS COVERAGE AND EVEN EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE BE GIVEN
TO THE GOVERNMENTS--NO MATTER IF THEY ARE THE GOVERNMENTS OF
AMIN, CASTRO, MACIAS, PINOCHET--AND LITTLE OR NONE TO THE
OPPOSITION.

16. "IN THE CASE OF RUSSIA, THE THEORY OF UNESCO WILL NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO CORRECTING ANY 'IMBALANCE' SINCE IN THAT COUNTRY
HAPPILY THERE HAS BEEN NO OPPOSITION SINCE 1922.

17. "IT IS CLEAR THEN THAT THE THEORY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED,
KEEPING IN MIND THE HAPPY EXPERIENCE OF NATIONS SUCH AS SOVIET
RUSSIA, AND THAT ITS HARMONIOUS APPLICATION IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR
NATIONS THAT HAVE THE MISFORTUNE TO COUNT UPON AND ORGANIZED
AND LEGAL OPPOSITION AND IN THOSE IN WHICH THE VIEW OF THE
GOVERNMENT IS NO MORE THAN ONE AMONG MANY AND, UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES, IS NECESSARILY THE RIGHT ONE.

18. "IN THE WEST THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER ERRS IS BY DEFINITION
THE POPE. AND THIS INFALLIBILITY--WHICH HAS BEEN DISPUTED BY
PROMINENT CATHOLICS--IS LIMITED. AS IS GENERALLY KNOWN, TO
MATTER OF RELIGIOUS DOGMA.

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19. "THIS CAN NOT THE WAY IN THE SOVIET UNION, OR IN UGANDA,
WHERE THE WORLD OF THE RULERS IS THE SUPREME LAW FOR EVERYTHING.

20. "THE RESISTENCE THAT THE FREE ORGANS OF COMMUNICATION
ARE BEGINNING TO PUT UP AGAINST THE PROPONENTS OF THESE THEORIES
HAS OBLIGED THEM --WE REPEAT-TO THINK THROUGH THEIR PURPOSES
AND BSIC PRINCIPLES. IT IS CLEAR THAN THAT FOR THESE THEORIES
TO BE ACCEPTED THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF THE WEST WOTLD HAVE TO BE
CHANGED.

21. "THAT MEANS THAT EITHER WHAT UNESCO SEEKS WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED OR THAT IF IT IS A SCISSION WILL BE PRODUCED IN THE
BOSOM OF UNESCO THAT WOULD PUT THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES ON
ONE SIDE AND THE SOVIET UNIONKA ITS SATELLITES AND A SECTOR OF
THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD ON THE OTHER.

22. "AND ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A PROPHET TO SEE THAT WITHOUT
THE ECONOMIC AND INTELLECTUAL CONCOURSE OF THE WESTERN STYLE
DEMOCRACIES UNESCO PRACTICALLY WOULD DISAPPEAR AS GUARDIAN
AND REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
CULTURE.

23. "THAT IS WHY WE SAY THAT THE LONG BATTLE OVER THE
CONCEPT OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS CAN BE ARRIVING AT ITS
END, SINCE IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT UNESCO WILL BE ABLE
TO UNIVERSALIZE THE GAG LAW.
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